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January 11, 2023

Church Family,

Claire Rebecca Robertson was born on December 28, 2022. She was 6 lbs, 11 oz, and 21 inches at birth. Claire is the first child for Jordan and Sara Robertson. Claire's grandparents are Ray and Diane Davis. Her aunts are Lauren Blue, Emily Davis, and Anna Davis. Her uncle is J.T. Blue. Her cousins are Rosie, Levi, and Ella Blue. Claire is beautiful, healthy, and surrounded by much love.

Ellie Burns married Jack Tearman in Murray, KY on December 30, 2022. The mother of the bride is Brandy McIlwain Sanders. Her stepfather is Brad Sanders. Her sister is Alyson Johnson. Pastor Kelsey Elliott stood by her side as a bridesmaid. Congratulations to the Tearmans.

Alex May married Liz Harkin on January 4, 2023. Alex's parents are Ed and Robin May. His brother and sister-in-law are Jason and Adriana Batchelder. His nephews and niece are Eric, Mateo, and Soledad Batchelder. Liz lives in Ireland. Ed and Robin traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark where they met Alex and Liz for the wedding. I tried to convince the family to fly me to Europe to make this wedding happen. They did not buy it. Congratulations to the Mays.

Charles and Glenda Davidson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 29, 2022. On December 31st, their children, Lori Roche and Jacen Davidson, hosted an anniversary reception for the Davidsons at the Apex Community Room. Family, church family, and friends from the community gathered to share congratulations and well wishes to the couple. In addition to their children, the Davidsons' grandchildren are Brycen and Nora Davidson. Congratulations to the Davidsons.

Christmas was special at WCN. The Blue Christmas service on December 21st has come to be one of the most meaningful things we get to do. People from our church and the community came and were blessed. It made a difference for those who feel loss. Christmas Day fell on a Sunday. The sanctuary was filled with joyful people and joyful sounds. It felt good and right to worship with you on Christmas morning. Many thanks to those who served on Christmas Day. It was not a small ask. Your church is grateful.

This year's *New Year's Family Communion* benefited from unseasonably warm weather. The stream of families and individuals was constant. Our pastors huddled with people for four nonstop hours. It was exhausting, but so good. We love beginning each year this way. We love the chance to spend personal time with you. We love you.

Helping Hands held a food distribution the Thursday before Christmas. On a nasty weather day, 150 families were served. The following people from WCN worked: Carl Brazzle, Jana Brazzle, Soledad Batchelder, Mateo Batchelder, Adriana Batchelder, Jane Langston, Doris Pine, Carla Reynolds, Mac Anderson, Carla Anderson, Ed May, Robin May, and Pastor Janice Rudolph. As food prices and utility bills rise, more people need more assistance. There is a bin for Helping Hands non-perishable food donations at WCN.

I traveled to Trevecca with WCN teens for a campus tour, basketball games, and pizza. Those who attended are Eden DeMoss, Luke DeMoss, Hayden Leming, Carson Wilkins, Kelly Wilkins, Mikayla Gwin, Madison Gwin, Kendall Brown, Parker Brown, Macy Brown, Parker Forester, Ainsley Forester, Eli Box, Dean Worcester, Scotty Worcester, and Brenden Selph.

Sunday night, a group of kids, teens, and adults met downstairs to assemble 50 Crisis Care kits. Each kit contains essential items to be distributed during times of crisis. The last time we assembled kits was August of 2021, days before our own community suddenly needed kits. We understand the need on a personal level. The group prayed for the people who will receive them. Our teens will deliver the kits to NYC in Tampa this summer.

WCN's next Building Update Meeting is this Sunday at 10am in the sanctuary in lieu of Engage Groups. Pastor Mary will share about SBA and FEMA work. Terry Langston and Greg Field will talk about construction. Don McGuire will outline our financials. Be here. Be informed. Be engaged.

The Season of Emerging Preachers begins this Sunday at 6pm. Each Sunday evening, an emerging preacher will preach. Then we will have the chance to respond to their preaching with affirmation. *The Season of Emerging Preachers* runs through the end of February. Join us as much as you are able.

On February 4th, we will host a Trauma Training workshop with Kayla Smith. The workshop is geared toward adults (parents, grandparents, teachers, kids' ministry leaders) and relates to trauma in children. Although the content is related to children, it will be beneficial for anyone serving those with trauma. Kayla is an experienced children's pastor and trauma expert. There is no cost. Lunch will be provided. The contact person is Pastor Kelsey. More information about the content is at reachhurtingkids.com. I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity.

What do you get for people who don't need anything else? What lasts longer than flowers? On WCN's lobby wall, there is a display with pamphlets and envelopes for special giving to WCN in memory or honor of loved ones. The next time you have a chance to give a gift for a funeral, anniversary, etc., consider giving to WCN in their memory or honor. Pick up a pamphlet and follow the simple instructions. You may give to WCN in general or you may designate giving to causes like the building fund or missions. When doing so, individuals and family members will receive a letter from Pastor Mary notifying them of your gift. Gifts like these keep giving.

Keep these words: *You are God's child. God loves you. God is pleased with you.*

-Pastor Daron

Upcoming...

- Jan 11: Immerse Groups begin, 6:30
- Jan 15: Building Update meeting, 10am & Season of Emerging Preachers begins, 6pm
- Jan 20-21: Nazatween
- Jan 23-24: Staff Retreat, church office closed
- Feb 4: Trauma Training
- Feb 12-13: WCN Annual Elections
- Feb 22: Ash Wednesday service, 6:30
- Mar 12: Come to the Waters: An Intro to WCN, 4-7pm

If you have a prayer need please email prayer@wcntn.com

Worship:
8:45 & 11am
Engage Groups:
10am

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